

**TOWN OF DAVIE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008 - 7:30 P.M.
ROBBINS LODGE
4005 HIATUS ROAD, DAVIE, FLORIDA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joyce Steward, Chair
Linda Greck, Vice Chair
Christina Pellicane
Donald Burgess
Frances Steier
Janice Carey
Paul Greenbaum

MEMBERS ABSENT

Toni Webb

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Phillip Holste, Program Manager, Town of Davie
Hilda Testa, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.
Ronald Bergeron

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Steward called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and roll call was taken.

2. BERGERON RODEO ARENA IMPROVEMENTS – OPEN SPACE BOND

Chair Steward recapped the events at the prior Town Council Meeting regarding the use of Open Space Bond money to partially fund the replacement the existing roof at the Bergeron Arena as well as an open addition to the north end of the arena for the benefit of the contestants and livestock.

Mr. Holste gave more detail as to the specifics regarding the scope of work for both the replacement roof and new addition. The new building's dimension shall be 60' x 180' or 10,800 square feet and shall cover the cattle chutes, announcer's booth and contestant staging area.

Mr. Ronald Bergeron explained the extent of the roof replacement and stated the lack of roof cover puts undue stresses on the livestock and contestants. In keeping with the arena's history, an open-air concept is being used in the planning and development of the addition. Mr. Bergeron listed the numerous organizations to benefit from the proposed improvements, paid for by donations by many supporters, in addition to the funding being requested from the Open Space Bond.

Mr. Holste clarified the roof replacement work on the existing structure will be paid from the Town's Reserve Funds, but the addition is being proposed as an expenditure for the Open Space Bond.

Ms. Greck asked if the arena is part of the open space inventory. Mr. Holste replied that the arena is included in the Town of Davie's park system, and the parking area is considered open space.

Ms. Greck commented that the arena protects, promotes and fosters our agricultural heritage and future, draws tourists to the area, ensuring the continuance of our lifestyle.

Ms. Carey stated the uniqueness and the historical significance of the rodeo arena lends itself to deeper consideration of the use of Open Space funds for the project, despite the language of the Bond being geared towards the protection of natural habitats.

Chair Steward was concerned the building could be enclosed at a later date and the use of Open Space dollars would have been spent on a metal storage facility next to residential structures. If the possibility exists the structure may be enclosed in the future, Chair Steward would prefer the funding to come from a source other than the Open Space Bond.

Ms. Pellicane asked if grants were pursued due to the historical nature of the structure to alleviate the use of Open Space funds. Mr. Holste was not aware if historical grants would be available for a facility of only twenty or so years.

Mr. Bergeron spoke of future proposals for the downtown area to become a historical district, Everglades museum, infrastructure for a tax basis, as well as additional improvements for the rodeo arena amenities to protect and promote an economy based on our historical heritage.

Mr. Bergeron went on to describe the continual siege of requests to develop the area into townhouses and parking garages, but fails to see how the residents of Davie would benefit from this type of development.

Ms. Pellicane suggested the Town pursue alternative funding in an effort to leverage the funds from the Open Space Bond.

Ms. Greck read from the Open Space Bond Resolution where it gives the definition of a park improvement as being any facility which enables the management of a natural

land, open space including, but not limited to parking spaces, restrooms, entrance features, fences, walkways and other facilities to enable and favor the educational and recreational use of the land. The historical significance offsets the fact that the resolution was referring to the land versus the arena facility.

Ms. Steier commented that the use of Open Space funds for facilities at parks will continue to be asked for and the OSAC must recognize that many voters saw the words, "improvements" and feel this use is acceptable.

Discussion ensued as to the interpretation of the bond language and the use of bond dollars for park improvements.

Mr. Greenbaum felt conflicted on the issue as he recollects the language of the bond to support the preservation and maintenance of the passive parks; however, the arena is of major benefit, not only to the residents of the Town, but also to the Town's place in history.

Motion made by Chair Steward and seconded by Mr. Burgess, to recommend funding the arena improvements by money other than the Open Space Bond. In a vote by hands, the **Motion** did not pass with Vice Chair Greck, Ms. Pellicane, Ms. Carey and Ms. Steier opposed.

Motion made by Ms. Pellicane and seconded by Ms. Carey, To protect and promote Davie's agricultural heritage and the historical significance of the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in preserving an agricultural lifestyle, we support the use of Open Space Bond money on a one time basis, to provide an open sided roof on the north side of the arena for the protection of rodeo contestants and involved livestock. In a voice, the **Motion** passed with Chair Steward, Mr. Burgess and Mr. Greenbaum opposed.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Having no more business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

APPROVED

CHAIRPERSON/COMMITTEE MEMBER